

# NATIVITY

*of the Lord*



QUEEN OF ANGELS CATHOLIC CHURCH

2569 W. Victoria Drive      Alpine, CA 91901

## STEWARDSHIP OF TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

### December 10-11, 2022

Envelopes Used	67
Envelope Collections	\$ 6,060.82
Plate Collections	\$ 519.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 6,579.82</b>
Immaculate Conception	\$ 1,161.00

*Annual Catholic Appeal*

*Thank you to those who have made a pledge to the Annual Catholic Appeal 2022 Collection. It is encouraging to see your commitment to our Parish and the Diocese. If you haven't done so, pledges may be placed in the collection or dropped off at the Parish Office.*

*To date we've raised 51% of our goal! Thank You.*

**PLEGGED: \$ 15,355.00 BALANCE: \$ 14,645.00 GOAL: \$ 30,000.00**

2022 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL | DIOCESE OF SAN DIEGO

## READINGS & MASS INTENTIONS DECEMBER 24, 2022-JANUARY 1, 2023

**Sunday/Christmas:** Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3])/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14  
**Monday:** Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22  
**Tuesday:** 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8  
**Wednesday:** 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8/Mt 2:13-18  
**Thursday:** 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6/Lk 2:22-35  
**Friday:** Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23  
**Saturday:** 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13/Jn 1:1-18  
**Next Sunday:** Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 (2a)/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

DATE	TIME	INTENTION
Saturday, Dec 24	4:00 pm	†Andrew Tompkins
Saturday, Dec 24	7:00 pm	†Mary Stenson
Sunday, Dec 25	8:00 am	The Blankenship Family
Sunday, Dec 25	10:30 am	†Al Florance
Monday, Dec 26	7:30 am	Rosary
Tuesday, Dec 27	8:00 am	
Wednesday, Dec 28	8:00 am	Melissa Yelvington Family
Thursday, Dec 29	8:00 am	Sandra Osorio
Friday, Dec 30	8:00 am	
Saturday, Dec 31	5:30 pm	†Felipe Villa
Sunday, Jan 1	8:00 am	Wilma Stenson
Sunday, Jan 1	10:30 am	June Hill



*Continue to Keep in Your Prayers and Hearts those on our Healing and Deployed Military Lists.*



Mary Avalos  
 Kelly Barker  
 Jan Barranco  
 Sharon Toovey Cox  
 Jim Easterling  
 Bob Ferrier  
 Austin Foyle  
 Carmen Garcia-Viramontes  
 Carmen Holt  
 Jason Laccone  
 Marcia Samuels  
 Joan Smith  
 Kailyn & Charis Whaley



### Deployed Military

Meagan Abad, LT  
 Matthew D. Fuller, PV2  
 William W. Fuller II, PFC  
 Edward R.M. Lopez, SSgt  
 Rebekah Meyer, BM3(sw)  
 Jacob Tweed, HM3  
 Mattison Underhill, USN



If you have a friend or relative who is serving in our military and is deployed or will be deployed, please contact Darlene at [bulletin@queenofangels.org](mailto:bulletin@queenofangels.org).

*Names remain listed for four weeks and can be renewed by contacting Darlene Ames at [bulletin@queenofangels.org](mailto:bulletin@queenofangels.org).*



## ANNOUNCEMENTS



**Mark Your Calendars** The parish office will be closed **Monday, December 26 — Tuesday, December 27, 2022.** We will reopen on **Wednesday, December 28** at 9:00 AM. We would like to wish all of our parishioners a very Blessed and Joyous Christmas Season!



### Faith Formation Schedule

Following is the schedule for classes during the Christmas holiday:

- 1st-8th Grade & 9th & 10th Confirmation Formation:**
- December 25: No class**
- January 1: No class**
- January 8: Class resumes**

**Giving Tree** Remember to take an ornament or envelope off the Giving Tree and donate cash for Rancho Nazareth and Villa Anahuac, or monetary donations; cash or checks for Children of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and East County Pregnancy Care Center. Final Deadline: Wednesday, **December 28.** **PLEASE NOTE: We can only accept CASH donations for Rancho Nazareth and Villa Anahuac.**



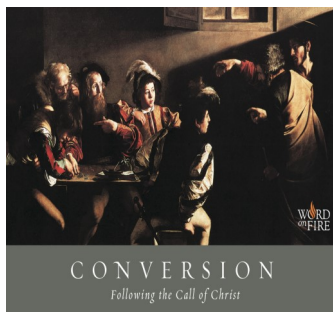
**IT IS THE NIGHT OF OUR DEAR SAVIOR'S BIRTH. MAY YOUR HEARTS BE FILLED WITH WONDER THROUGHOUT THE CHRISTMAS SEASON AND ALL OF 2023. MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM QUEEN OF ANGELS' STAFF & VOLUNTEERS.**



### Join our Newest Bible Study

## "Conversion"

What is the Catholic definition of "conversion"? Contrary to Protestant belief in a "once and done" conversion and salvation, the Catholic view is a bit more nuanced. This study explains how conversion is not so much a one time event, but a life-long process. "Jesus Christ calls us in thousands of different ways to follow Him, as we strive on the path for spiritual excellence," explains Bishop Barron.



This Study begins on Tuesday, **January 17, 2023.** Classes meet in the parish hall from **9 am—11 am AND 6 pm—8 pm** every Tuesday for 6 weeks. The class is free. Optional study guide is \$14.95 plus shipping.

The participant bundle can be ordered at [bookstore.wordonfire.org](http://bookstore.wordonfire.org).

Please order it early to ensure you receive it by the first class.

For more information or questions call the office at 619-445-2145.

## QUEEN OF ANGELS CATHOLIC CHURCH

2569 W. Victoria Drive  
Alpine, CA 91901-3662

Office: (619) 445-2145

Email: [parish@queenofangels.org](mailto:parish@queenofangels.org)  
Website: [www.queenofangels.org](http://www.queenofangels.org)

### Holy Sacrifice of the Mass

Saturday: 5:30 pm  
Sunday: 8:00 & 10:30 am

### Daily Mass

Tuesday-Friday: 8:00 am

### Rosary

Monday-Friday: 7:00 am

### First Friday Devotions to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Exposition/Confession: 10:00 am,  
Mass 11:30 am

### First Saturday Devotions to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Rosary: 8:30 am, Mass: 9:00 am

### Mother of Perpetual Help Devotion

Wednesday: after 8:00 am Mass

### Eucharistic Adoration

Friday: after 8:00 am Mass until 9:30 am

### Confession

Tuesday-Friday: 7:15 am,  
Saturday: 4:00 pm, or by appointment

### Sacraments

Baptism, Holy Matrimony, & Funerals  
Contact Fr. David

### Clergy

Rev. David Exner: **Pastor**,  
[frdexner@queenofangels.org](mailto:frdexner@queenofangels.org)

### Parish Office Staff

Enriqueta Luquin: **Business Manager**,  
[enriqueta@queenofangels.org](mailto:enriqueta@queenofangels.org)  
Jacob Brown: **Administrative Assistant**,  
[jacob@queenofangels.org](mailto:jacob@queenofangels.org)  
Glenn D'Abreo: **Music Coordinator**,  
[glenn@queenofangels.org](mailto:glenn@queenofangels.org)  
Darlene Ames: **The Messenger**,  
[bulletin@queenofangels.org](mailto:bulletin@queenofangels.org)



Mary, Queen of Angels, Pray for Us!

**PASTOR'S PAGE**

Friends,

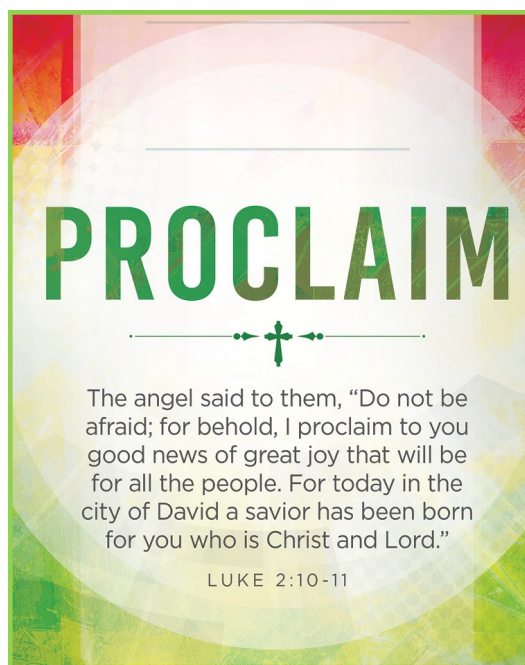
Merry Christmas!

Many years ago I was blessed with the opportunity to visit the Holy Land during the Christmas season. A few days after the Christmas Octave we were able to visit Bethlehem and the Church of the Nativity. First, it's worth noting that simply being able to visit Bethlehem and the site of Jesus' birth at all was an incredible blessing in itself; to be able to there go during the Christmas season was almost unbelievable. After going through the line to visit where the manger was 2000 years ago, rather than go back up the stairs, I and several of my friends (all fellow seminarians at the time) decided to sit in an elongated alcove that faced the holy site without obstructing foot traffic, giving us an opportunity to simply sit and pray for a while. It occurred to me as we sat there that we must have been very close to the spot where the shepherds knelt before the Christ-child on the very first Christmas, which brought a smile to my face as we prayed in silence and watched the people go by. One moment that has stuck with me ever since, though, was when a middle-eastern father brought his young daughter down and showed her where Jesus was born. She couldn't have been more than 4 or 5 years old, if that, and I remember that she was wearing a bright pink winter jacket. While I obviously could not understand this good father's words to his daughter, there was no mistaking his meaning, as I watched him carefully and tenderly point out to his little girl where the baby who came into the world to save her was born. It was very moving, and it drove home something that we know, but that we often take for granted and consequently don't think about very much, which is this: Jesus came into the world for all of us. And I don't just mean that he came into the world to save people from every race and nation, though certainly that is true. I mean that Jesus came to us in a form that we can all recognize and relate to, no matter who we are. Even the youngest child can look at Jesus and say, "he looks just like me!" Because God did not enter the world as a fully grown adult or the warrior-hero that many in Israel were hoping for. Such a messiah would, in the eyes of a child, be just one more giant person who towered over them, used big words they couldn't understand, and quite literally looked down on them. No, God entered the world as the smallest of us, someone that everyone can relate to, someone all of us can see ourselves in, someone that all of us immediately recognize as a source of hope and joy. Jesus enters this world in a way that even the smallest child can relate to him and see in him the God who is always with us and who always understands us. And that, dear brothers and sisters, is a gift worth celebrating.

Merry Christmas! And may God bless each and every one of you as we celebrate the Lord's birth.

With Great Joy,

*Fr. David*



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### What the Animals Knew at Christmas

by Donald DeMarco



You may have wondered, and rightly so, why the ox and the donkey appear so often beside the Christ Child in various images of the Nativity.

These two rather disparate animals frequently appear in Catholic medieval paintings of Christ's birth and in nearly all of the Orthodox icons of the first Christmas. Yet they are not mentioned in the New Testament narratives. Nonetheless, even in the earliest example of a Nativity scene known to us, a swaddled Babe is flanked, not by Mary and Joseph, but by the ox at his head and the donkey at his feet.

The most important and reliable biblical text, Isaiah 1:3, makes it clear that the ox and the donkey are not present in the manger scene to provide atmosphere, nor is their presence the product of a pious imagination. According to the great prophet, "An ox knows its owner, an ass its master's manger; but Israel does not know, my people has not understood." This text makes it clear that the ox and donkey know something very important that even many human beings do not know — namely, who their Master is. This resonates with Christ's question to Simon Peter: "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answers correctly and is rewarded by being given the keys of the kingdom of heaven and being made the Church's first pope (Matthew 16:16-19).

Pope Benedict XVI includes a chapter entitled "Ox and Ass Know Their Lord" in his book *The Blessing of Christmas*. "It is striking to note," he writes, "in the medieval pictures of Christmas how the artists give the two animals almost human faces and how they stand before the mystery of the Child and bow down in awareness and reverence."

According to the pope emeritus, this makes sense because "we are but oxen and asses vis-à-vis the Eternal God, oxen and asses whose eyes are opened on Christmas night, so that they can recognize their Lord in the crib."

The birth of Christ opens our eyes so that we come to know who our real Master is — and it is not wealth, power, status or pleasure.

A second important point is brought out in Deuteronomy 22:12, where we read: "You shall not plow with an ox and an ass harnessed together." According to dietary proscriptions in the Old Testament, the ox was considered to be a "clean" animal, while the donkey was regarded as "unclean." Also, the ox was seen as representing Israel, whereas the donkey symbolized the Gentiles. Biblical scholars have explained the presence of the ox and the donkey at Christmas as representing Christ joining factors that are usually regarded as extremes. Therefore, the birth of Christ is the union of the spiritual and the corporeal, the clean and the unclean, the uncreated and the created, the human and the divine, heaven and earth and time and eternity.

Christmas is about a birth. But, more importantly, it is about opening our eyes to our true Master, who has widened our perspective on life, showing us that there is far more to our lives than what we can find immediately around us — and that we have much greater capacities for love and peace than we could ever have imagined. May this Christmas be your happiest and most meaningful.

Donald DeMarco is a senior fellow of *Human Life International* and an adjunct professor at *Holy Apostles College and Seminary* in Cromwell, Connecticut. © 2014 EWTN News, Inc. Printed with permission.

### Christmas Gifts

#### **Question:**

Why do we give gifts at Christmas?

#### **Answer:**

Great events in and of themselves are not tangible. They occur in life but leave no mark behind, nothing that someone could come across and know that something significant occurred. So we mark the event with monuments, holidays, gold watches or plaques, making a meaningful event tangible and memorable.

Gifts at Christmas do the same thing. They mark the occasion of the birth of Jesus, communicating a bit of the joy of the day by allowing us to be both giver and receiver. Gift-giving sets aside the day as special and different. The special foods, customs, decorations, and gifts all help focus our attention on the importance and meaning of the day and at the same time allow us to share personally in its joy and happiness.

In giving gifts, though, we can share in the meaning of Christmas in a significant way. We imitate God in sharing with others. We give a bit of ourselves to others in the gifts we give, just as God gives us the gift of his Son. No wonder we often say that the best gifts are those that come from the heart. Given in love, these presents are wrapped in the best covering of all.

©LPi

#### CHRISTMAS





## ANNOUNCEMENTS

L N B Y R A M G G Q M F M  
 O Q F R N E G A E N I L W  
 R H H R E Z U J N R E O C  
 D T C R R G O N S G R A L  
 B E C A U S E T G L E B O  
 T E P S E H L C D S H R T  
 D S T P W D G E A U T R H  
 Q U H H A A U R G I E O S  
 S O R V L R D J O N R N S  
 D H I I G E W D S I A R L  
 S D L A L V H W L R Z E C  
 D E L L O R N E A I A V R  
 E P A I R Y S N M U N O I  
 A C I T Y J S T E Q H G P

### Word Search Christmas (Luke 2:1-14)

ALSO	ANGEL	AUGUSTUS
BECAUSE	BETHLEHEM	CAESAR
CALLED	CITY	CLOTHS
DAVID	DECREE	EACH
ENROLLED	FIRST	GALILEE
GLORY	GOVERNOR	HOUSE
JOSEPH	JUDEA	LINEAGE
LORD	MANGER	MARY
NAZARETH	QUIRINIUS	SWADDLING
SYRIA	THERE	WENT
WHEN	WORLD	WRAPPED

### Being the Sign

I think the real challenge of evangelization in the modern age is the reality that pretty much everyone has already heard of Jesus Christ — or, at least, they think they have.

To our 21st-century eyes, the angel who shared news of the birth of Jesus with the shepherds had an easy job. All he had to do was announce it.

Our baptism compels us to do the same — to announce the coming of Christ over and over again, always and everywhere. But our audience is not a group of illiterate shepherds in ancient Judea. Our audience is a world that has heard so much about Jesus they often claim weariness of his name. So how do we do it? If we walk into a crowd of strangers and tell them we want to talk about Jesus, their reaction will probably be either “I already know about Jesus, thanks,” or “I’ve heard of him, and based on the behavior of those who claim to follow him, I’m really not interested in hearing more.”

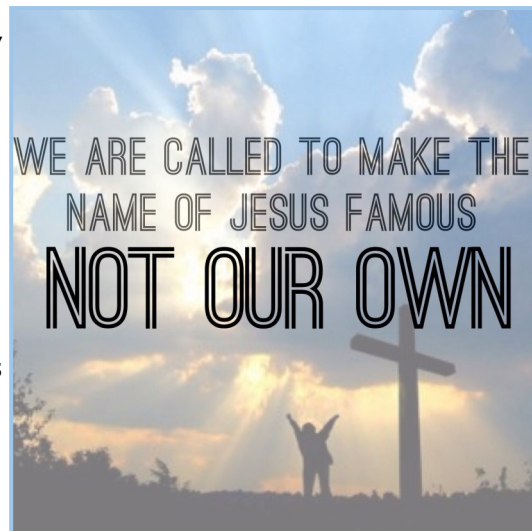
Because in the end, our very lives are how we “announce his salvation” in the present day. We announce it in our actions to strangers. We announce it in our treatment of people who have wronged us. We announce it in our interactions with those who disagree with us.

How long had the coming of the Messiah been foretold to the Israelites? So long that, no doubt, many of them despaired of his coming altogether. So, God had to give them a sign: “You will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.”

Now we are the sign.

The world has heard of Christ by now. But have they all seen him? It’s our job to show them.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



## ANNOUNCEMENTS



*We are grateful to all those who made a donation and helped decorate our parish for the Christmas Season.*

*In Memory of:*

Joan Hoffman  
Zeke & Peggy Easterling  
Al Florance  
Edmund & Carmen Cordova  
Cleofas (Grandma) & Pearl (Nina)  
Auntie Cella & Auntie Lily  
Bob & Peggy Ames  
Diane Ames  
Cal & Nina Lewis  
Tom & Rita Ferrier  
Ivan Samuels  
Barry R. McClarty  
Shane Martin  
Therese Hensle  
Wesley Wehking  
Diane Wehking  
John & Rosie Souza  
Mary Souza  
Pat Callahan  
Alfonso & Carmen Luquin  
Joaquin Luquin

*Donated by:*

Jim & Peggy Easterling  
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Terry & Darlene Ames  
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Bob Ferrier  
Bob Ferrier  
Bob Ferrier  
Diane McClarty  
Ann Martin  
Ann Martin  
Carol & Jon Furois  
Carol & Jon Furois  
Sharon Davey  
Sharon Davey  
Alberta Callahan  
Enriqueta Luquin  
Enriqueta Luquin

